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EXAMINER

SING, SIMON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/220,962

Applicant(s)

CRUICKSHANK ET AL.

Examiner

Simon Sing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-77 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: The reference numerals 50 (per page 19, line 18) and 280 (per page 42, line 3) in figures 3 and 12 respectively. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 15 should depend on claim 13, not claim 12. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17-21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38-40, 43-46, 48, 50-54, 56, 57, 60, 62, 64-68, 71-73 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Greco et al U.S. Patent 5,568,540 in view of Koralewski et al. U.S. Patent 5,8875,239.

Regarding claims 1, 2 and 16, the Greco reference discloses a voice mail system for screening the source of a stored message in figures 1 and 2. The call processor 38, acting as a server, generates an information signal associated with the source of a stored message and transmits said information signal to a communications device of an addressee, the client computer 14 (column 3, lines 63-67) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). The information signal generated by the Greco reference includes a source's name (if the caller is a registered user), telephone number, date and time, and types of the message such as voice, fax, and e-mail. The Greco reference, however, fails to teach including a graphical image in the information signal. The Koralewski reference, a telephone call screening system, discloses a method of screening a telephone call by obtaining a caller identification information signal including a caller's graphical image associated with the caller's ID from a database (column 1, lines 59- 67 to column 2, lines 1-4, and figure 4), and the graphical image can be a numeric, symbolic or photographic representing the person or entity initiating the call (column 4, lines 19-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's system with the teaching of Koralewski so that a registered user's database in the Greco's reference would have contained at least one graphical image in addition to his name and telephone number, and such data would have been included in an information signal sent to the called party for pending message

notification, because such a modification would have enabled a called party identifying a source much quicker by just glancing at the graphical image, and retrieving the stored messages accordingly.

Regarding claim 5, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, transmits the information signal for receipt by a networked personal computer 14 associated with the addressee as shown in figure 1.

Regarding claims 6, 8 and 50, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, states in column 3, lines 64-66: "the call processor 38 will begin to record a message, and as a server, cause the client computer 14 to display appropriate information". Furthermore, the Greco reference is only for selecting and playing recorded voice message, not for real-time screening. Therefore, the control system in the call processor 38 of the Greco reference inherently has received a notification that a recorded message has been received before generating an information signal associated with the source of said message.

Regarding claims 9, 11 and 31, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, states in column 3, lines 64-66: "the call processor 38 will begin to record a message, and as a server, cause the client computer 14 to display appropriate information", and the source' information is displayed in figure 2. Therefore, the Greco reference determines the source information from caller information, generates and information signal, and if the caller is within the system, e.g. a subscriber, portion of the subscriber's information such as his name is included in the information signal and transmits the information signal to the addressee.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, may be configured to identify and display other media types of stored messages in a networked user database, such as e-mail messages and fax messages (column 2, lines 18-23) and generates an icon representing the media type in an information signal (figure 2, and column 4, lines 57-59).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using an icon, which is a graphical image, in an information signal to identify some media types of stored messages (figure 2 and column 5, lines 57-59), but fails to teach using an image to identify an e-mail. However, the Koralewski reference further teaches using different images to identify a source (column 4, lines 19-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's system with the teaching of Koralewski so that a user would have a choice of picking one image to represent the media type and another to represent the source of a stored message, because such modification would have enabled a user distinctively identifying a message's media type and its source.

Regarding claim 21, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, discloses in figure 2 and states in column 5, lines 6-8: "The 'Open' command 190 plays a voice mail message or displays a fax or e-mail message". Greco further states in column 5, lines 61-64: "The client requests and obtains a file ID for the file on the server which contains the audio portion of a voice mail message. The specified file is opened for reading on the server". Therefore, the call processor 38 transmits a stored message to a communications device, e.g. a user computer 14, upon a request from said computer.

Regarding claims 24 and 25, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches sending an information signal, with a graphical image, to identify the source of a stored message to an addressee. The Greco reference also teaches using digitally encoded sound waveform to transmit the stored message (column 5, lines 64-67, and column 4, lines 11-19), but fails to teach including a sound waveform in the information signal. However, the Koralewski reference further teaches that the image associated with a source may be an audio representation of the person or entity initiating the call (column 4, lines 19-23). Therefore, it was obvious that the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, would have stored an audio representation of a caller in its data base, retrieved and encoded such an audio representation, relating to a stored message, into a sound waveform to be included in an information signal transmitting to an addressee, because such a modification would have enabled an addressee to receive a notification by listening to the audio representation even when he was not looking at his computer.

Regarding claim 32, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using a graphical image in a information signal to identify the source of a stored message, but fails to teach that the caller, or source, can pre-select an image to represent himself. However, the Koralewski reference discloses in figure 3, steps 58, 60, 66 and 68 that a caller inputs/modifies his image database to pre-select an image to be displayed on a called party's displaying device (column 4, lines 42-43 and lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Greco's reference to include Koralewski's teaching so that a caller would have the option of pre-selecting an image to represent himself on a called party's

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display device. Because such a modification would have allowed a called to update his representation such as a picture on a skiing resort when he was on a winter vacation, or a picture at a beach when he was on a summer leave.

Regarding claim 34, the Greco reference discloses a system for selecting and playing a stored voice mail message in figure 1, including a call processor or server 38 acting as a generator for generating an information signal identifying the source of the stored message, and as a transmitter for transmitting the information signal to an addressee's computer 14 (column 3, lines 65-67). The Greco system fails to relate the information signal to the stored message with an image of the source. However, the Koralewski reference discloses a telephone call screening system in figure 1, including a computer 18 for generating, combining and transmitting a program signal with one image of a caller to an addressee's video display for viewing (column 6, lines 16-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's system with Koralewski's teaching so that the information signal would have contained at least one graphical image related to the source of a stored message, because such a modification would have been much quicker and easier for an addressee to identify the source.

Regarding claim 36, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, has a call processor 38 which acts as a message waiting notification server for producing an information signal as stated in column 3, lines 65-67.

Regarding claim 38, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, has a call processor 38, which includes a personal computer configured as a network server and communicates with its database where at least one graphical image is stored.

Regarding claims 39 and 40, the Greco reference, modified by koralewski, has a call processor 38 configured as a network server (column3, lines 25-29), and as every networked device, it is required to have a network interface card (NIC) to communicate with other networked devices. The NIC is the physical layer of a server and functions as a transmitter and/or a receiver.

Regarding claim 43, The Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, discloses in figure 4, steps 235 and 236 that the call processor 38 is programmed process a request from the addressee's computer for a stored message.

Regarding claims 44-46, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, has a call processor 38 which is programmed to obtain and combine one graphical image with other caller's information into an information as taught by Koralewski, column 6, lines 16-21.

Regarding claim 48, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, has a call processor 38 programmed to identify a media type of stored message, and to include a digital image, such as an icon, associated with the media type in a information signal (the fifth column of figure 2, and column 4, lines 57-59),

Regarding claims 51 and 52, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, discloses an apparatus for selecting and playing a voice mail message in figure 1, and states in column 3, lines 22-28: "The programmed personal computer 14 is connected

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to a local area network 30... which a call processor 38, configured to provide voice mail and a server, is connected. The programmed client personal computer 14 and the server communicate directly with each other using a client-server protocol". Therefore, the network computer 38 is programmed to communicate with the communications device, or the personal computer 14.

Regarding claims 53 and 54, the personal computer 14 in the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, has a processor (column 2, lines 61-65) programmed to receive an information signal containing at least one graphical image from a network computer or server 38, and a display 20 for displaying at least on graphical image.

Regarding claim 56, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, a apparatus for selecting and playing a voice mail message in figure 1, has a call processor 38 which includes a programmed personal computer 40, and as a programmed personal computer/server, it has computer readable medium including a floppy drive and a hard disk drive that contains the server program which the microprocessor is executing as well as data which the program requires while it is executing (column 2, lines 61-67 and column 3, lines 1-3 for a client programmed personal computer 14). Therefore, a software program, modified by Koralewski, stored in the hard drive of the personal computer 40 contains codes for directing the network computer 40 to generate an information signal relating a stored message to at least one graphical image associated with a source of the stored message; and directing the network computer 40 to transmit the information signal to a communication device associated with an addressee of the stored message as discussed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 57, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to produce a representation of at least one graphical image in the information signal as discussed in claim 2.

Regarding claim 60, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to transmit the information signal to a network resource associated with the addressee as discussed in claim 5.

Regarding claim 62, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to determine the source of the stored message as discussed in claim 9.

Regarding claim 64, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to determine a caller line associated with the stored message as discussed in claim 11.

Regarding claim 65, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to identify a media type of a stored message and produce a representation of a graphical image associated with media type in the information signal as discussed in claim 17.

Regarding claim 66, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to transmit the stored message to the communications device in response to a request for the stored message from the addressee as discussed in claim 21.

Regarding claim 68, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to retrieve a digital representation of a sound waveform associated with the source, and encode the digital representation of the sound waveform in the information signal before transmission of the information signal to the communications device as discussed in claims 24 and 25.

Regarding claim 71, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to relate the stored message to a pre-selected graphical image associated with the source and pre-selected by the source as discussed in claim 32.

Regarding claim 72, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to alert the communications device that an incoming message from the source is being stored and permitting the communications device to interrupt the storage of the incoming message and connect with the source as discussed in claim 33.

Regarding claim 73, the Greco reference discloses a voice mail system for screening the source of a stored message in figures 1 and 2. The call processor 38, acting as a server, generates an information signal associated with the source of a stored message and transmits said information signal to a communications device of an addressee, the client computer 14 (column 3, lines 63-67) for display as shown in the second and the fifth columns in figure 2 (column 4, lines 45-51 and 57-59). The information signal generated by the Greco reference includes a source's name (if the caller is a registered user), telephone number, date and time, and types of the message

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such as voice, fax, and e-mail. The Greco reference, however, fails to teach to include a graphical image, or a digital representation of a sound waveform, associated with the source in the information signal. The Koralewski reference, a telephone call screening system, discloses a method of screening a telephone call by obtaining a caller identification information signal including a caller's graphical image associated with the caller's ID from a database (column 1, lines 59- 67 to column 2, lines 1-4, and figure 4), and the graphical image can be a numeric, symbolic, photographic or an audio representing the person or entity initiating the call (column 4, lines 19-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco's system with the teaching of Koralewski so that a registered user's database in the Greco's reference would have contained at least one graphical image, and an audio representation of a user in addition to his name and telephone number, and either the graphical image or audio representation would have been included in an information signal sent to the called party for pending message notification, because such a modification would have enabled a called party identifying a source much quicker by just glancing at the graphical image, and retrieving the stored messages accordingly, or enabled an addressee to receive a notification by listening to the audio representation even when he was not looking at his computer.

Regarding claim 75, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches sending an information signal, with a graphical image, to identify the source of a stored voice message to an addressee, The Greco reference also teaches using digitally encoded sound waveform to transmit the stored message (column 5, lines 64-67, and

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column 4, lines 11-19), but fails to teach including a sound waveform in the information signal. However, the Koralewski reference further teaches that the image associated with a source may be an audio representation of the person or entity initiating the call (column 4, lines 19-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Greco reference with Koralewski's teaching to include a plurality of digital representation of sound waveforms associated with the source of a stored message, because such a modification would have enabled an addressee to receive a notification by listening to the audio representation even when he was not looking at his computer.

5. Claims 7, 10, 12-15, 22, 37, 41, 42, 61, 63 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. in view of Koralewski et al. and further in view of Rogers et al. U.S. Patent 5,946,386.

Regarding claims 7 and 14, the Greco reference teaches generating an information signal for identifying a calling party, but fails specifically to teach storing the information signal for subsequent retrieval. However, the Rogers reference, a call management system, discloses centrally located network resource, a user-accessible call logs database, which can be within the call management computer or on a LAN based server (column 9, lines 8-11), for storing call related information such as caller's name, phone number, time and length of a call, and these data allow a called party to get back to a caller he missed (column 42, line 11-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further

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modify the Greco system, which was modified by Koralewski, with Rogers' teaching so that the information signal would have been stored for later retrieval. Because such a modification would have enabled an addressee to retrieve and view a notification later in case the addressee's computer was not available at the time of notification.

Regarding claims 10 and 12, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using a calling line ID for retrieving a caller's information from a database, but fails to teach using a user ID in case a registered user initiates a call from other telephones which numbers are not registered. However, the Rogers reference discloses a proactive caller identification method, which the call management system requests the caller to provide identification (column 23, lines 26-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco system with Rogers' teaching so that the call processor 38 would have requested a caller to enter a user ID for retrieving the caller's profile stored in a database with at least one graphical image. Because such a modification would have allowed an addressee to identify the source of a recorded message even when the caller used a payphone somewhere on a street corner.

Regarding claims 13, and 15, the call processor 38 in the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski and further modified by Rogers, after identifies a caller, as discussed in claim 1, receives a user's profile, including at least one graphical image, from its database, and generates an information signal identifying the source of a stored message.

Regarding claim 22, the Greco reference, teaches sending an information signal relating to a stored message to an addressee's computer, but fail to teach sending the information signal only upon receiving a request from an addressee. However, the Rogers reference, discloses that has options notification to a called party only when the user status is set to "available" (column 27, lines 45-60). Changing status from "unavailable" to "available" sends a request for notification from a user's workstation to the call management computer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, with Rogers' teaching so that an information signal would have been transmitted to an addressee only upon receiving a requested for pending notification. Because such a modification would have allowed an addressee to view the notification at a time of he choice, so that the notification would only be transmitted when the addressee was with his computer for privacy reasons, or when the user was using his computer for other important tasks and did not want to be interrupted.

Regarding claim 37, the Greco reference, teaches generating an information signal for identifying a calling party but fails specifically to teach storing the information signal in a network resource. However, the Rogers reference discloses that the call management computer summarizes an incoming call and saves related information in a use-accessible database (column 42, lines 11-13), which is located in a networked management computer or a network server (column 9, lines 7-11). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to further modify the Greco system, which was modified by Koralewski, with Rogers' teaching so that the information signal would have been stored for later retrieval.

Because such a modification would have enabled an addressee to retrieve and view a notification later in case the addressee's computer was not available at the time of notification.

Regarding claims 41 and 42, the Greco reference teaches sending an information signal relating to a stored message to an addressee's computer, but fail to teach sending the information signal only upon receiving a request from an addressee. However, the Rogers reference, discloses that has options notification to a called party only when the user status is set to "available" (column 27, lines 45-60). Changing status from "unavailable" to "available" sends a notification request from a user's workstation to the call management computer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, so that the call processor 38 would have been programmed to transmit an information signal to an addressee only upon receiving a request for pending notification. Because such a modification would have allowed an addressee to view the notification at a time of he choice, so that the notification could only be transmitted when the addressee was with his computer for privacy reasons, or when the user was using his computer for other important tasks and did not want to be interrupted.

Regarding claim 61, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to initiate storage of

at least a portion of the information signal for subsequent retrieval and transmission to the communications device as discussed in claim 14.

Regarding claim 63, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to determine a calling party associating with the stored message as discussed in claim 10.

Regarding claim 67, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to transmit the information signal to the communications device in response to the network computer receiving a request for pending notifications from the addressee as discussed in claim 22.

6. Claims 23, 27, 28 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. in view of Koralewski et al. and further in view of Skarbo et al. U.S. Patent 5,778,053.

Regarding claim 23, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using a pre-selected graphical image, to identify a source of a stored message, but fail to teach providing the source with at least one graphical image relating to the addressee before recording the stored message. However, the Skarbo reference, discloses an answering machine for data conference in figure 1. When the answering machine answers an incoming call, the caller is presented with a multimedia greeting window as shown in figure 4, where the addressee's text and audio greeting as well as an image of the addressee is transmitted to the caller's computer. Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Skarbo's teaching to provide a caller with a graphical image of an addressee before recording a stored message. Because dialing a wrong telephone number was quite common and such a modification would have assured the caller that he had called the right person and not left a message to someone else in case the caller who had a hearing problem.

Regarding claims 27 and 28, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using a pre-selected graphical image in an information signal to identify the source of a stored message, but fail to teach using a frame of a video stream from the stored message to identify the source. However, the Skarbo reference in figure 6 discloses a message screening method in that all messages recorded appear in a called party message list (column 7, lines 10-11), and as the called party brows through the list, the first frame of the video stream within a recorded message appears in a window of the called party's computer screen (column 8 lines 14-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Skarbo's teaching to extract at least one video frame from the video stream within a recorded message for representing the source in the information signal. Because such a modification would have given a caller another option to represent himself with an updated image to a called party, and since in most cases, the video frame was related to the stored message would have given the called party a better idea about the stored message.

Regarding claim 33, the Greco reference teaches screening stored voice mail messages, but fails to teach real time monitoring and interrupting a caller for connection while the caller is leaving a message for a called party. However, the Skarbo reference discloses in figure 3 and in column 6, lines 27-36 that the called party is able to monitor a message in real-time and interrupt the caller and be connected to the caller if he hears something important or interesting. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, to include Skarbo's teaching so that a called party's communications device could interrupt and be connected to a caller who was leaving a message. Because such a modification would have enabled a called party, after identified a caller and if he so desired, to communicate with the caller at once without missing important calls. Otherwise, the called party would have to listen to the whole message later and called the caller back, and by then the original caller might not be available for various reasons.

7. Claims 26, 49, 69, 74, 76 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. in view of Koralewski et al. and further in view of Hsu U.S. Patent 5,907,604.

Regarding claims 26 and 49, The Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using a pre-selected graphical image, which can be photographic, to identify a source of a stored message, but fail to teach specifically using a captured video frame from a stream of video data associated with the source. However, the Hsu reference,

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an image icon associated with caller ID, discloses a caller's image stored in memory can be an image captured from a video camera (column 5, lines 17-22) and the image need not be a single static picture but can be a sequence of pictures or a video (column 6, lines 40-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Hsu's teaching so that the graphical image could be a captured video frame, and the call processor 38 would have been programmed to reproduce a representation of said video frame in an information signal. Because such a modification would have been well within the teaching of Greco and Koralewski, and would have given a user more option for selecting an image since video capturing was well known in the art, such as computer video editing, and a captured video frame would have been presented as a photographic picture as stated by Koralewski (column 4, line 19-23).

Regarding claim 69, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to reproduce within said information signal a representation of at least one video frame from a video stream associated with the source as discussed in claim 26.

Regarding claims 74 and 76 and the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches generating an information signal with at least on image to identify the source of a stored message. But fails to relate the stored message with a plurality of graphical images. However, the Hsu reference states in column 6, lines 40-41: "Also, the image icon need not be a single static picture by can be a sequence of pictures or video". Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Hsu's teaching so that the graphical image could be a plurality of images or video frames captured from a video as discussed in claim 26. Because such a modification would have been well within the teaching of Greco and Koralewski, who had stated to include AT LEAST one graphical image in the information signal, and would have given a user more information about the source and the stored message since some of the images could be related to the stored message.

Regarding claim 77, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches using symbols and photographs and/ or an audio representation in an information signal to identify a caller (Koraleski, column 3, lines 21-24, and column 4, lines 19-23). The Hsu reference, however, teaches using a video to identify a caller (column 6, lines 40-42), and normally a video is dubbed with an audio to describe or explain the video to a viewer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Hsu's teaching so that the captured video frames would have been matched with an audio representation from the same video stream, because such a modification would have given an addressee short A/V representation which would have contained much more information about the stored message.

8. Claims 3, 4, 29, 30, 35, 47, 55, 58, 59 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greco et al. in view of Koralewski et al. and further in view of Porter U.S. Patent 6,282,270.

Regarding claims 3, 4, 29, 35, 47 and 55, the Greco reference, modified by Koralewski, teaches sending an information signal with at least on graphical image, indicating the source of a stored message to an addressee's networked computer for notification, but fail to teach sending a portion of said information signal to a web page accessible to the communications device, or the addressee's computer. However, the Porter reference, discloses a world wide web (WWW) voice mail system in that a user retrieves information relating to a stored voice message from a web page (figure 5, column 2, lines 62-67 and column 3, lines 1-2), and images are stored in separate graphic files at the server and the web page's HTML text contains references (network locations and addresses) to these graphic files (column 5, lines 50-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Porter's teaching so that the call processor 38 would have been programmed to add a portion of an information signal, including references to at least one graphical image associated the source of a stored message, to a web page accessible by an addressee's computer. Because such a modification would have enabled a user getting instant notification while he was surfing on the www, and as a networked device, inherently would have received a control signal by executing a software program, before sending an information signal to a web page.

Regarding claim 30, the Greco system, modified by Koralewski and further modified by Porter, teaches notifying an addressee's computer about pending notification, but fails to specifically teach notifying the addressee's computer about pending notification on a web page. However, the Porter reference states in column 5,

lines 23-25: "The operation of a voice mail system in such a manner is well-known and so will not be described further". Moreover, notification of pending message is a well-known feature in a voice mail system and the Porter's reference inherently includes such a step of notifying an addressee's computer of pending web page notification. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the Greco reference to include Porter's teaching of notifying an addressee's computer of pending web page notification, because such a modification would have alerted the addressee of pending notification even when he was not log on the www.

Regarding claims 58 and 59, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to identify a network location and address and generate a representation of said network location and address in the in the information signal as discussed in claims 3 and 4.

Regarding claim 70, the network computer 40 in the Greco reference, which was modified by Koralewski, was directed by codes inside its hard disk to transmit a control signal to a network resource for instruction the network resource to add at least a portion of the information represented in the information signal to a web page accessible to the communications device as discussed in claim 29.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305 3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

SS

02/15/2002

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